

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An engine enclosure for use on a vehicle having a cooling system for a vertical shaft type engine with a cooling air intake fan disposed above the engine, said engine enclosure comprising:

an upper hood for covering said engine from above, said upper hood having an upper surface and right and left side surfaces extending downward from said upper surface;

a lower hood for covering lateral areas of said engine; and

cooling air intake openings each formed in a position above a lower end of respective said right and left side surfaces of said upper hood for taking in ambient air,

wherein at least one barrier wall is disposed near each of said cooling air intake openings and between said cooling air intake openings, and ~~so that~~ the at least one barrier wall causes one of said cooling air intake openings is to be invisible to another of said cooling air intake openings, and vice versa.

2. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 1, further comprising a fan cover for covering an upper portion of said engine including said fan and having an air passage for permitting inflow of cooling air to said fan, the lower end of said upper hood being located above a lower end of said fan cover.

3. (Previously Presented) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 1, further comprising a partition wall member disposed between each of said cooling air intake openings and said cooling air intake fan for restricting mixing of ambient air drawn by said fan and heat generating from said engine.

4. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 3, wherein said partition wall member defines a duct for guiding the ambient air to said fan.

5. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 3, wherein said partition wall member and said upper surface of said upper hood define a duct structure for guiding the ambient air to said fan.

6. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 3, wherein said partition wall member is attached to said upper hood, said upper hood being displaceable between a closed position adjacent said lower hood and an open position, said fan being exposed when said upper hood is in said open position.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 1, wherein said barrier wall is disposed between said cooling air intake openings and said fan for restraining said ambient air taken in through said cooling air intake openings from directly reaching said fan.

9. (Previously Presented) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 2, wherein each of said cooling air intake openings has a lower end thereof located above an upper end of said fan cover covering said fan.

10. (Previously Presented) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 2, wherein each of said cooling air intake openings has a forward end thereof located forwardly from a suction port of said fan, and a rear end located in a position corresponding to or rearwardly of said air passage of said fan cover, said cooling air intake opening being open continuously from said forward end to said rear end.

11. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 3, wherein said partition wall member is fixed to said side surfaces of said upper hood.

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 3600

Application No. 10/081,873

Paper Dated April 19, 2004

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of December 17, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 388-020337

12. (Previously Presented) An engine cooling system for use on a lawn mower having a vertical shaft type engine with a cooling air intake fan disposed above the engine, comprising:

a fan cover for covering said fan;

a hood for covering said engine, said hood including:

an upper hood having a lower end located above a lower end of said fan cover; and

a lower hood,

wherein said upper hood is displaceable between a closed position adjacent said lower hood and an open position;

a cooling air intake opening formed in at least one of said upper hood adjacent a control panel and said control panel for taking in ambient air; and

a partition wall member disposed between said cooling air intake opening and said cooling air intake fan for restricting mixing of ambient air drawn by said fan and heat generating from said engine, said partition wall member being fixed to said upper hood,

wherein a rear end portion of said partition wall member extends over to a position above said cooling air intake opening to allow passage of ambient air drawn in through a position above the lower end of said upper hood.

13. (Currently Amended) An engine cooling system as defined in claim 12, wherein said cooling air intake opening is formed in said control panel, said rear end portion of said partition wall member ~~being~~ is part of a lower surface of said partition wall member, and ~~extending rearwardly of said partition wall member~~ said rear end portion of said partition wall member extends in a rearward direction in relation to the lawn mower to allow passage of ambient air from said cooling air intake opening.

14. (Previously Presented) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 1, wherein each said barrier wall is disposed to each of said cooling air intake openings so as to shield an interior of the engine enclosure.

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15-24. (Cancelled)